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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Allen, et al.	§ Group Art Unit: 2182 DEU 2 2 2003		
Serial No.: 09/652,370	§ Examiner: Mohammed O. Farooq		
Filed: August 31, 2000	§ Attorney Docket No. AUS920000537US1 §		
	§ IBM Corporation		
Title: System and Method for Efficient	§ Intellectual Property Law Dept.		
Management of Fibre Channel	11400 Burnet Road		
Communication	§ Austin, Texas 78758		
	§		

Certificate of Facsimile Under C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence was sent via facsimile to the United States Patent Office to telephone number 703-872-9306 on December 22, 2003.

By: Joseph T. Van Lieuwen Date

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

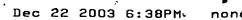
A. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action having a mailing date of November 4, 2003, with a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 4, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and reexamination of the present application in light of the following remarks and amendments.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

Docket No. AUS920000537US1

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DATE: December 22, 2003

Number of Pages to Follow (including this cover sheet) 15

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United States Patent Office

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2182

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Docket No.	AUS000537US1	Serial No. 09/6	52,370 Atty: VE / JVL	
Applicant:	Allen, et al.			
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Deposit Acc	et. No. 09-0447			
Fees: Amer	ndment Notic	e of Appeal	Anneal Brief	Other